

**DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes**  
**12/5/13 at 11:00 a.m.**

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Dave Contreras and Geir Aasen (DFW), Edmund Yu, Elaine Jeu, Farida Islam, James Gleim, Kevin Reece, Loi Tran and Mark Bettencourt (DWR), Leigh Bartoo (FWS), Barb Byrne (NMFS)

**Sacramento River Fish Monitoring**

Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report				
Species*	FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)**	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) RST (Catch)***	DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)****	DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)****
Date	11/19/13 to 12/2/13	11/28/13 to 12/4/13	11/28/13 to 12/4/13	11/28/13 to 12/4/13
CHNF	2,579	2		
CHNLF	17,839	40		
CHNW	146,416	1,190		
CHNS	17,823	13		
Ad-Clipped CHN	Not reported			
SH	248			
Ad-Clipped SH	Not reported			
GST	Not reported			
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, GST= Green Sturgeon. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

\*\*Overall, there has been an increase in passage for fall-run Chinook salmon, late-fall run Chinook salmon and spring-run Chinook salmon, and a decrease in passage for winter-run Chinook salmon since the last reporting period (11/4 to 11/18) at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.

Starting on 12/1, brood year 2013 began for fall-run Chinook salmon based on the length-at-date criteria. FWS estimated the brood year 2012 total for fall-run Chinook salmon at 24,084,181.

As of 12/2, the brood year 2013 total for winter-run Chinook salmon is at 1,387,533. FWS are calculating and reporting confidence intervals for the brood year totals after calculation issues from the previous report.

\*\*\*At GCID, there has been an increase in all Chinook salmon runs when compared to the last reporting period (11/14 to 11/21).

\*\*\*\*DFW stopped RST sampling at Tisdale Weir and Knights Landing on 11/28 for the Thanksgiving holiday and resumed the next day.

Graphical summaries of the monitoring data collected at the Sacramento River and at other locations can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. In addition, the biweekly passage reports of juvenile salmonids sampled at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam are available at [http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd\\_biweekly.aspx](http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx).

**Delta Fish Monitoring**

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 11/24/13 to 11/30/13				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Island Trawl
CHNF				
CHNLF				

CHNW				
CHNS				
Ad-Clipped CHN				
SH				
Ad-Clipped SH				
DSM				3 (62 to 63mm, no expression)
LFS				9 (107 to 127mm)
SPLT				
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

Information about the Delta fish monitoring data from FWS can also be found at <http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/>.

### **Salvage Monitoring**

As of 12/4, no listed species have been salvaged at the Delta fish facilities during water year 2014.

Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP site (<ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>). If you cannot access the FTP site, you can also go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx> and click on "Salvage FTP Site."

### **Smelt Monitoring**

DFW is currently conducting the December survey of the Fall Midwater Trawl, which is expected to wrap up on 12/17. Between 12/2 and 12/4, DFW collected no delta smelt. However, DFW caught 9 longfin smelt (61 to 133 mm) in San Pablo Bay, 12 longfin smelt (57 to 127 mm) at Carquinez Strait, and 7 longfin smelt (59 to 109 mm) in west Suisun Bay.

Indices for the 2013 September to December Fall Midwater Trawl will be available by the end of December. For more information about the Fall Midwater Trawl, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=FMWT>.

Due to the low smelt catch from the Fall Midwater Trawl, DFW also reported the smelt catch using an otter and midwater trawl from the December San Francisco Bay Study that is currently taking place from 12/2 to 12/10. Between 12/2 and 12/4, DFW collected 6 delta smelt (55 to 67 mm) in the lower Sacramento River, 1 delta smelt (58 mm) in the lower San Joaquin River, and 6 delta smelt (58 to 66 mm) in Suisun Bay. For longfin smelt, DFW collected 4 (60 to 90 mm) in the lower Sacramento River, 2 (67 to 77 mm) at the confluence, and 23 (59 to 124 mm) at Suisun Bay. For more information about the San Francisco Bay Study, please visit <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=BAYSTUDY>.

### **Smelt Working Group**

The Smelt Working Group did not meet this week and is not expected to meet regularly until there are major changes to the hydrology. However, members of the Smelt Working Group are reviewing relevant monitoring data every week and can convene a meeting if needed.

At this time, the Smelt Working will be basing its delta smelt recommendations on Old and Middle River (OMR) flow using the guidance in [FWS RPA Component 1, Action 1](#). The purpose of RPA Component 1 "is to reduce entrainment of pre-spawning adult delta smelt during December to March by controlling OMR flows during vulnerable periods. Action 1 is designed to protect upmigrating delta smelt" (page 280 of 2008 FWS BiOp).

Action 1 would require DWR and Reclamation to maintain OMR flow to no more negative than -2,000 cfs (14-day average) for 14 days if initiated. Between 12/1 and 12/19, the SWG is monitoring conditions for increased risk of entrainment. From 12/20 on, Action 1 can begin when turbidities hit the levels indicated in the 2008 FWS BiOp or when a threshold is reached for the "daily salvage index."

The Smelt Working Group notes and FWS determinations are posted at [http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt\\_working\\_group.cfm](http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm).

### **Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group**

DOSS met on Tuesday, 12/3, reviewed the usual monitoring and operations data, and provided no advice to NMFS or the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT). A few discussion highlights are provided below.

#### *Delta Cross Channel (DCC) operations per Action IV.1.2*

DOSS discussed current water quality conditions in the context of DCC gate operations. The DCC gates are currently closed per Action IV.1.2. Based on current water quality conditions, Reclamation is not currently requesting a modification to Action IV.1.2 (DCC gate operations). Reclamation and DWR will continue to monitor water quality and this issue may be revisited if water quality worsens.

There was a request to clarify any allowances for opening the DCC for the 12/15 to 1/31 phase of Action IV.1.2. Under RPA Action IV.1.2, as of 12/15, the gates will be closed through 1/31 with a one-time opening of the DCC (for water quality) that is allowed through 1/5. The exception states that,

Upon concurrence of NMFS, DCC Gates may be opened one hour after sunrise to one hour before sunset, for up to 3 days, then returned to full closure.

Reclamation and DWR will also reduce Delta exports down to a health-and-safety level during the period of this action.

#### *Winter-Run Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE)*

DOSS asked for an update on when the winter-run JPE will be available. NMFS does not yet have the final numbers needed to calculate the JPE that is used to estimate the annual incidental take limit of winter-run Chinook salmon and the daily older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density triggers for RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow management) at the Delta fish facilities. NMFS reported on the DOSS call that, typically, the escapement estimate is finalized approximately in the third week in December. NMFS prefers to release the finalized number, but will advise using preliminary numbers for implementing RPA Action IV.2.3 if needed.

#### *RPA Actions*

- IV.1.1: No alerts tripped in the past week.
- IV.1.2: No triggers exceeded in the past week; DCC gates closed as of 12/1.
- IV.3: No triggers exceeded in the past week.

DOSS notes and related documents are posted at

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central\\_valley/water\\_operations/doss.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/doss.html).

### **Operations**

Preliminary Summary for 12/5/13			
State Water Project (SWP)		Central Valley Project (CVP)	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	1,200	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	1,000
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	240	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	289
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	529	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,300
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,250	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	3,750
		Stanislaus – Goodwin Reservoir Releases (cfs)	200
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~5,500	DCC Gates	Closed (for fish

			protection via NMFS RPA Action IV.1.2)
X2 (km)	> 81		
Export/Inflow (%)	23.3 (3-day average)		

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at  
<http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>.

**Next Conference Call:** There will be no DAT conference call on 12/12 as CALFED OPS will meet on 12/11. The next DAT conference call is scheduled on 12/19 at 11:00 a.m.

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